

This is not democracy: Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and a violation of the public trust.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the corporations economic interest, and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I am distressed when I hear the same information on the local news on each of my network stations as if no one can bother to investigate basic issues facing Oregon and the city of Portland--it is really canned news at the local level.

Sinclair's actions showy we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.